



Nine

April 2013

News

The Newsletter of the 9 RAR Association SA Family

published April, August and December annually

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Anzac Day, Adelaide, 1968. Members of 9 Battalion marched, in uniform. Were you there? What are your recollections about the experience and the day?

As Anzac Day 2013 approaches I acknowledge the leadership roles undertaken by 9 RAR veterans in the South Australian community. Anzac Day is commemorated in many different ways around the state and on behalf of all members I thank 9 RAR veterans who are past office bearers and name those who are currently president of their local RSL club such as Bob Plummer (Goolwa), Robert McFarlane (Cowell), Ken Dorward (Lucindale), Les Maynard (Kadina), Jeff Holman (Cummins-Yeelanna), Haydn Madigan (Pt Pirie), and Leon Eddy, (TPI Association). Their contribution and commitment to the local community is significant and we support them as they organize and participate in Anzac Day activities such as Dawn Services, gunfire breakfasts, commemorative sporting events and school visits.

It is a privilege for me to once again lead 9 Battalion in Adelaide on Anzac Day, considering that I was one of a large number of national servicemen who filled the ranks and served in Vietnam, with many paying the supreme sacrifice. As is our custom, the flags representing our 10 SA war

dead will be carried in Adelaide and our publicist John has recently provided details for the commentary.

I encourage you to join in the commemorations in your community or the march in Adelaide and share in the lunch at the Old Lion Hotel, North Adelaide – kindly arranged by Mick.

Please also consider taking private time that day to place a poppy in remembrance on one of the monuments in Adelaide or your country town.

Even 45 years after the formation of the Battalion at Woodside on 13th November, 1967, I cease to be amazed that we still have projects on the drawing board. Currently, fundraising and private donations are enabling the names of all of 9 RAR war dead to be placed on the commemorative wall at the RAR Association clubrooms (also known as the Burnside RSL). Further fundraising will be required for pavers for the Huey Project instigated by 9 RAR's Haydn Madigan at the Port Pirie RSL. I commend those involved for their initiative. Our war dead will then be very well recorded as their names are already on the Vietnam monument on Victoria Drive, the cairn behind the National War Memorial on North Terrace, on Battalion monuments at Woodside and the Pathway of Honour,

as well as country monuments and memorials.

Geoff and Wendy Holman also advise that the Cummins district is building a War Memorial in Cummins with completion scheduled for this Anzac Day. See article for more details.

"How are you?" is a question we usually ask when we greet people. It is important that we take time to really listen, consider the answer and be alert to the depth of the response. Over the years of my involvement with 9 RAR SA I have been impressed by the bonds of service and friendship that have developed as we have attended and helped organize reunions, overseas and country trips and regular committee activities. This has helped me, as well as my family, as we experienced the usual and extraordinary challenges in life.

As we are ageing and unforeseen family situations present, I encourage all to consider how you are feeling and if needed, seek assistance sooner rather than later through VVCS, DVA, Beyond Blue and other medical professionals.

I am pleased to report that the annual city and country commemorative services held so far this year have been well planned and attended. 9 RAR has a real profile in South Australia now, in no small part due to the dedication of Adrian, John and team. We particularly acknowledge Channel 7's Today Tonight coverage of the Battle of Hat Dich.

This Anzac Day, pause and reflect on Australia's young men who have lost their lives in service during the last 12 months.

David Stacey

ANZAC DAY

*Once again the lunch will be held
at the Old Lion Hotel, North
Adelaide.*

*Please join the 9 RAR family for
the march and for socialising
afterwards. It is a wonderful day
for mateship and friendship as we
meet with veterans, their families,
nok and friends.*

*Whether you are in the country,
city, or interstate, support your
"team" and join in a march or
community activities on Anzac
Day.*

VIETNAM WAR DEAD STATISTICS - Fred Fairhead.

This is the numbers by Battalion tours (including RNZIR soldiers serving in the three 'Anzac Battalions' 2, 4 and 6):

1 RAR	1 st Tour	23		
	2 nd Tour	31		Total 54
2 RAR	1 st Tour	26	(3 NZ)	
	2 nd Tour	14	(6 NZ)	Total 40 (9 NZ)
3 RAR	1 st Tour	24		
	2 nd Tour	4		Total 28
4 RAR	1 st Tour	19	(4 NZ)	
	2 nd Tour	9	(1 NZ)	Total 28 (5 NZ)
5 RAR	1 st Tour	26		
	2 nd Tour	25		Total 51
6 RAR	1 st Tour	37		
	2 nd Tour	27	(14 NZ)	Total 64 (14 NZ)
7 RAR	1 st Tour	16		
	2 nd Tour	17		Total 33
8 RAR	1 st Tour	18		Total 18.
9 RAR	1 st Tour	35		Total 35

Fred Fairhead is a graduate of the Royal Military College circa 1964. He served in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps on active service with 6 RAR's second tour. He retired from the Army with the rank of Lt Col to serve the SA State Government in Emergency Services. Fred is the RARA resident military historian and is the author of the book on the RAR in Korea. He is currently working on a book on the RAR in Vietnam.

FROM THE WELFARE OFFICER, LYN FISHER

1. Medicare numbers and your Gold Card.

Patients at some clinic appointments are being asked for their Medicare numbers. Please be assured that Medicare numbers are not essential. Gold card holders may choose to present only their Gold Card. It is not necessary to produce a Medicare card to obtain treatment. Please feel free to politely advise any staff requesting your Medicare details that you are able to obtain treatment on the strength of your Gold Card alone.

White Card holders will need to present their Medicare details for any service not covered by their White Card entitlement.

2. DVA Taxi Transport Issues.

Over the past few months, concerns have arisen over the changed contractual arrangements for travel to medical appointments for veterans and war widows. Some of the concerns are: drivers not knowing the suburbs or routes, drivers talking on their mobiles, and drivers wanting to get signatures on blank travel vouchers.

Our taxi clients may be assured that the DVA rebates the drivers for the trips based on pick-up points and destinations, not what might be written on the vouchers. State legislation prohibits drivers talking on their mobiles. Some 'hands-free' talk is legally permitted. However, you have the right to ask that your driver not use his/her mobile. You also have the right to have the air conditioning on or off as you prefer, and to have the driver turn off music or radio noise if you prefer.

We would like to encourage you to look at the number on the back door of the taxi before

you enter the car if possible. If you then have a 'brickbat' or 'bouquet' for your driver, it is easy to identify the trip details. However it is not necessary to get the number. We are able to track your trip, although it is a more involved process, if you cannot supply the taxi number.

We would also like to encourage you to speak to us if you need extra help with your trip, such as escorting you to your door.

Please call DVA Transport on 133 254 (local) 1800 555 254 (regional) for any additional help you need, or for complaints or compliments.

The Adelaide Taxi Services Charter states that you have the right to:

- a driver who is appropriately licensed and accredited
- travel in a clean, tidy, well-maintained and roadworthy vehicle
- have the air conditioning turned on or off
- have the music system turned on or off

Your driver should:

- be courteous and helpful
- know and obey traffic laws
- know major routes and destinations
- understand and speak English
- take the most direct, practicable route
- be neat, clean and tidy
- wear an approved uniform
- assist passengers where reasonable and be understanding of people with special needs

Please feel free to call DVA Transport on 133 254 (local) 1800 555 254 (regional) if you have any comments, or if you need clarification on your DVA transport.

Before you read this text box look at page 10.

Lyn Fisher, John Hallam, Barry Whitehead and John Higgins

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Warren Featherby kindly organized tickets for a fantastic performance by John Schumann and the Vagabond Crew at the Festival Theatre Space. The quality musicianship, intimacy and atmosphere of the venue ensured a great evening's entertainment. As always, John's special mention of the veterans in the audience and the heartfelt rendition of his special song brought on the goosebumps and lump in the throat. John invited us to join his group as they relaxed in the Bistro afterwards - we all felt very privileged and thank John for his thoughtfulness. We were in good company as our popular Governor Kevin was also in attendance! It was a delight to meet John's mother, also Denny and her brother Michael ("I was only 19") and his family. On the same weekend south coast members of 9 RAR enjoyed a performance by John

Schumann, Hugh McDonald and crew at the Goolwa Aquatic Club.

Over 30 of our "family" took the opportunity to enjoy authentic "Pizza and Pasta" and a great Sunday night out when dined at the Altavilla Iripina Sports and Social Club Inc. The President, 9 RAR's Peter Varricchio, and his team of volunteers, made us very welcome.



Snapped in Strathalbyn recently were Mardi & Mick Bawden (visiting with a group of friends from The Green Triangle) and Jennifer and Mick Mummery.



Why is Mummery smiling?



Pretend we're not looking



Why is Mardi smiling?



MAJOR UPGRADE to RSL GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE, CUMMINS

from Geoff and Wendy Holman

The Cummins-Yeelanna RSL Sub-branch Members are planning a major upgrade of the Garden of Remembrance on the corner of Railway Tce and Tumby Bay Rd. in Cummins.

This upgrade and the dedication of a new Memorial is important not only to the Sub-branch, but also to the Communities of Cummins, Yeelanna & the surrounding district, since within the Lower Eyre Peninsula Council area, there is no dedicated War Memorial to 'Those Who Served'.

Members plan to reposition the current Memorial Stone within a new Garden, and remove the existing paved cross, flag pole, garden and the 6 Aleppo pines on the eastern area. The names currently recorded on the pavers and at the base of the Aleppo pines will be re-dedicated elsewhere on a new Memorial. The lawn area will remain as is.

The entire site, will be "divided" into 3 areas: the lawn area at the western end, a new "Memorial" section in the centre and at the eastern end several new shade trees, with sheltered seating. The Memorial section will consist of a new monument, raised rose beds, flag pole and Memorial Stone.

The Monument itself will consist of a 2m. high plinth, topped by an Italian marble sculpture of a life-size World War II Pacific digger. The figure is in battle gear, carrying an Owen gun, and wearing a slouch hat.

The 4 sided plinth will have inscribed on it the names of the 56 servicemen and women from this district recognising "Those who made the Supreme Sacrifice."

The Monument will be centred on a 'courtyard' of Calca pavers with two "stone

boxes" to the north & south containing 5 red standard roses in each bed.

Centered at the northern edge of the Calca pavers will be a new flag pole and the Memorial Stone seated on a bed of coloured gravel.

Plans are well under way. Quotes for the Memorial section have been obtained and RSL members have had preliminary talks with the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula. The support of the Department of Veterans' Affairs is also being sought.

It is now time to "make things happen".

The completion of the project is planned to be in time for ANZAC Day 2013 and whilst the local RSL membership still includes surviving WWII Members.

To enable us to undertake the upgrade of the RSL Garden of Remembrance, the Cummins-Yeelanna RSL Sub-branch members now need the financial support of the community. The cost of the Memorial itself is estimated to be \$80,000, with the landscaping another \$20,000.

Donations towards the RSL Garden of Remembrance can be made by cheque. For details please contact RSL President Geoff "Fox" Holman 8676 8072 or Meg Fuss (Secretary)

Cheque/money order can be made out to: Cummins-Yeelanna RSL Memorial Fund

All donations received will be receipted and acknowledged where a name and address is provided to:
The Secretary, Cummins-Yeelanna RSL Sub-branch, PO Box 91, Cummins
or emailed to coolangattaf@bigpond.com

The community has raised funds for it, together with \$50,000 from the Cummins Community Bank and \$25,000 from the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula. Grants from Federal and State Governments have totalled \$16,000!!

BURIALS OF WAR DEAD AND VETERANS

Have you ever had the privilege of visiting any of the well-known war cemeteries and memorials such as The Australian War Memorial, Canberra; Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux in France or one of the many commemorative sites on the Gallipoli Peninsula - Gallipoli - in Turkey?

These famous places are beautifully maintained and a fitting tribute to our forebears.

Closer to home, the recent annual commemorative services for 9 RAR's South Australian war dead, has opened the history book research pages for me.

You too will find much of interest as you identify graves of the war dead and those buried post-war at local and city cemeteries. Veteran Eligibility criteria means that there are different plaques and headstones, and at Centennial Park many graves have a sticker showing that the licence needs to be renewed as the lease has expired.

The Australian Imperial Force Cemetery at West Terrace, Adelaide, "honouring the brave men and women who served in war", is also worth a visit.

Transcription from the information board:

"This is Australia's first dedicated military cemetery. Its establishment was prompted by the unprecedented high casualties of the Great War (1914-1918) and the profound impact they had on Australian society.

Soldiers too badly injured to return to the battlefield were repatriated to Australia, and mortality rates were high. By 1920, more than 150 returned servicemen had been buried at West Terrace Cemetery, many in unmarked graves.

People were distressed by the neglect of soldiers' graves and the apparent lack of recognition of their sacrifice. Supported by a groundswell of public sentiment, the League of Loyal Women initiated a movement to establish a fitting tribute. The Government agreed and allotted half an acre of Light Oval exclusively for men and women who served overseas during the war.

The first burial in the AIF cemetery was that of Private James Hannam on 23 May 1920, barely three months after the League launched its campaign.

The AIF cemetery was closed for burials in 1994 and contains the graves of 4,167 ex-service men and women."

and finally from the official records of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission: www.cwgc.org - WEST TCE CEMETERY- Identified Casualties: 272.

So, with camera, notebook, water bottle, GPS and mobile phone in hand, a few hours research could be most rewarding for you and your family. Watch out for speeding cyclists riding through the cemetery!



Jan Stacey



OUT ON THE OPEN ROAD

Jim Fisher and Terry McElligot included some research for The War Graves Photographic Project during their recent road trip to Victoria and New South Wales.



They paid tribute to 9 RAR's Pte P.F. Reidy at White Hills, Bendigo (pictured on the left), as well as other Vietnam War dead at Kaniva, Horsham, Bendigo, Kangaroo Flat, Maryborough, Harcourt, Finley, Mildura and Merbein.

www.twgpp.org

WARD 17 OF "THE REPAT" TRANSITION OF CARE COORDINATOR (TOCC)

Ward 17 has recently undergone a review in order to determine the best way to meet emerging needs within the veteran population. As a part of this review, a proposal to enhance discharge planning, (as requested by Veterans through the Ward 17 Consumer & Carer Advisory Group) will be implemented. This initiative will be part of the working role that Louise Checkley, a senior social worker on Ward 17, will undertake.

The objectives of this change are to work with you during your in – patient stay and, more importantly, to follow up with you post discharge, (if required and clinically indicated.) It is intended that this initiative will;

1. Improve the quality of care for veterans following discharge from hospital.
2. Encourage veterans to take a greater role in their own discharge planning process.
3. Improved health outcomes of Veterans, through optimal discharge outcomes and reduced frequency of relapse leading to re-admission.

This new role will be professionally evaluated and Louise will keep the Veteran community appraised, via the Consumer & Carer Advisory Group, as to how this new initiative is evolving.

With respect

Warren Featherby
On behalf of Ward 17
Consumer & Carer Advisory Group

ANNUAL SERVICES Hat Dich – Pathway of Honour

You should have seen
him before he
cropped his gut.



Pte R A Phillips – Murray Bridge



Reg's Mum Lorna and her daughter Jan

Eddie Beeton and Mark Galpin

Pte B J Plane – Ardrossan



The Plane family

THE INTREPID 9 RAR FAMILY



Jenny Howe and Barb Featherby atop the “Coathanger”.

This sure beats putting your hand up the back end of a cow.

President David after completing 46 km Bupa Challenge, Tour Down Under – Mt Pleasant to Tanunda



Dennis Sigston and the ones that didn't get away.

Other intrepid adventurers are heading to Berri in the Riverland for a weekend get-away from the 10th to the 12th of May. Contact Association Secretary Bob Plummer for all the details



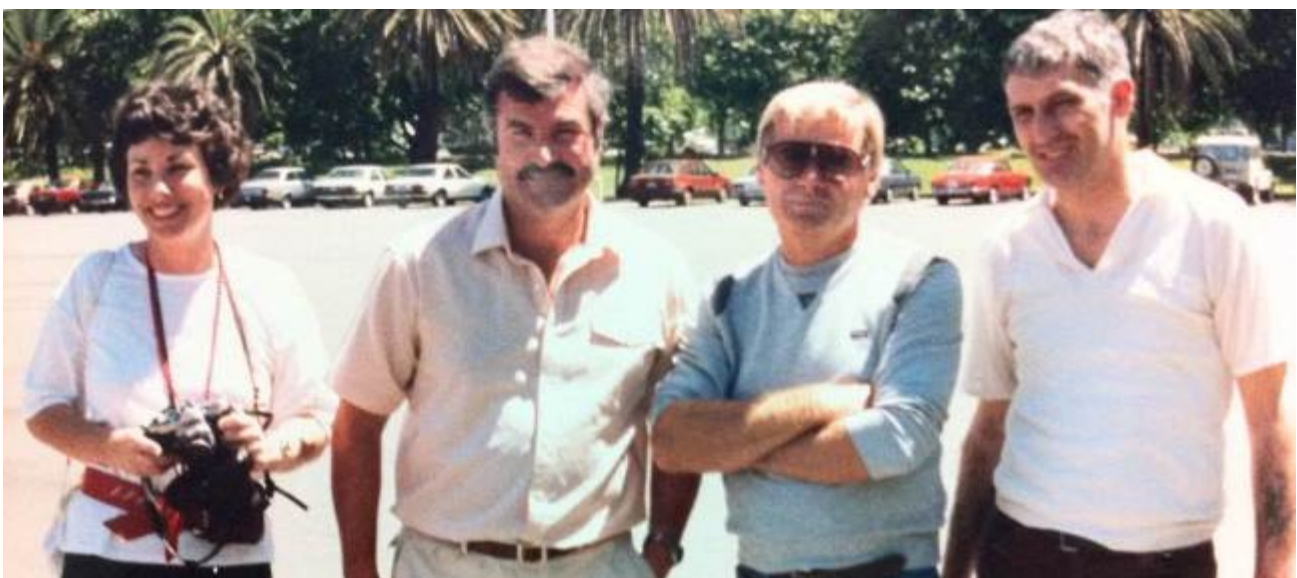
The Advertiser, Saturday, November 15, 1986

□ Battalion reunion

THE 9th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (9RAR) will march from the Torrens Parade Ground at 2 p.m. today to the Shrine of Remembrance for a memorial service. The 9RAR, which was formed at Woodside, marched through Adelaide in November 1968 prior to departure for Vietnam and on its return in December 1969. Included in the weekend activities will be a buffet dinner at 27 RSAR Depot, Thomas Street, Unley, tonight, and a family barbeque at the old stamping ground at Woodside tomorrow. (Air Defence Regiment).

Yeah, sure John, just don't bring it back with any holes.

You know Warwick this could be the official 9 RAR Mafia staff car.



Just look at the cars in the background – how old is this?
Do you recognise the four “amigos”? – Answers on page 3

AWARDS AND HONOURS Australia Day 2013 Honours List

Congratulations to the following recipients who have links to 9 RAR SA.

AM - Dr Brian Cornish OAM RFD ED

"For significant service to medicine as an orthopaedic surgeon, to forestry and conservation, and to the community."



AM - Mr Jock Statton OAM

"For significant service to the veteran community of South Australia."

OAM - Mr Peter Goers

"For service to the community as a radio broadcaster."



OAM - Mrs Patricia Kennedy

"For service to veterans and their families, particularly as an entertainer."

AM - Mr Jimmy Pham (NSW)

"For significant service to the community, particularly children in Vietnam, through KOTO International."



South Australian Public Service Medal – Mr Darren Renshaw

"For outstanding public service to the Repatriation General Hospital and to the wider veteran community."

We also acknowledge the enthusiasm and commitment of the many unsung members of our community as they contribute through their working and private lives, without which organizations could not function successfully.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL			JULY		
4	1300	General Meeting, RAR Clubrooms	6	1200	Service for RJ Abraham - Whyalla
25	0930	Anzac Day March	12	1100	Service for BAJ Adamczyk – Centennial Park
25	1200	Lunch at Old Lion, North Adelaide	AUGUST		
MAY			1	1300	General Meeting RAR Clubrooms
10	- 12	Country weekend - Riverland	18		Vietnam Veterans Day
JUNE			OCTOBER		
6	1300	General Meeting RAR Clubrooms	3	1300	General Meeting RAR Clubrooms
NOVEMBER 2017 50 th ANNIVERSARY REUNION IN ADELAIDE					

HONOUR ROLL

L Cpl R J Abraham	6 Jul	Whyalla	Cpl A W Graham	7 Jan	Stirling North
Cpl B A J Adamczyk	12 Jul	Centennial Park	Cpl H R Musicka	19 Jan	Centennial Park
L Cpl P A Chant	14 Feb	Centennial Park	Pte R A Phillips	18 Jan	Murray Bridge
Sgt J R Cock	19 Jan	Centennial Park	Pte B J Plane	20 Jan	Ardrossan
Sgt J M Duroux	5 Jan	Centennial Park	Pte G J Scales	5 Mar	Centennial Park

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B: David Stacey
C: Michael Mummery
D: Jeff Howe
SUPPORT: Leo Macpanas
ADMIN: Jim Fisher

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REPAT: Warren Featherby
RSL: Michael Mummery
TPI: Leon Eddy

AUDITOR

Mark Turner CPA